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vestigation to determine what artificial preparation could be made to take the place of the natural nectar in these experiments, as a means of obtaining and mounting the pollen tubes of flowers.

San Francisco Microscopical Society. — This society, one of the most prosperous in the country, having outgrown its old quarters, has just moved to new rooms in the building known as the Thurlow Block, corner of Kearney and Sutter streets. The rooms, which were first occupied on occasion of the regular meeting of November 2d, are on the fourth floor, approached by means of an elevator, and consist of a handsomely furnished meeting-room supplied with book-cases and cabinet to contain the rapidly increasing collections of objects and books belonging to the society, and an adjoining room fitted up as a laboratory with abundant facilities for microscopical work.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Professor James Orton left home during the middle of October for South America, with the intention of exploring the Beni River in the interests of geographical science, natural history, and commerce.

— Under the title Entomologischer Kalender für Deutschland, Oesterreich und die Schweiz, Dr. F. Katter, of Putbus, Germany, has published a very useful pamphlet, containing a diary for 1876, a list of German, Austrian, and Swiss entomologists and entomological societies and journals.

— J. Munsell, Albany, announces for 1877 The Indian Miscellany; containing papers on the history, antiquities, arts, inventions, languages, religions, traditions, and superstitions of the American aborigines; with descriptions of their domestic life, manners, customs, traits, governments, wars, treaties, amusements, exploits, etc.; also sketches of travel and exploration in the Indian country, incidents of border warfare, journals of military expeditions, narratives of captivity, anecdotes of pioneer adventure, missionary relations, etc. Collected by W. W. Beach.

— The well-known London house of Macmillan & Co., publishers of *The Practitioner*, have undertaken the publication in England of Micro-Photographs in Histology, the monthly work conducted by Drs. Seiler, Hunt, and Richardson. A large edition is required by the English profession.

— F. A. Curtiss, of Jacksonville, Fla., can supply the ornamental Florida grasses and air plant (Tillandsia), so much prized for parlor decorations, sea-weeds, wood encrusted with barnacles or burrowed by the teredo, coquina rock, river shells, sea-fans, sea-willow, stag's horn and other corals, sea beans, and anything else in the line of Florida curiosities, including stuffed or live alligators, alligators' teeth and eggs, stuffed birds, etc.; also, views of Florida scenery. The first-mentioned will be *exchanged* for Algæ, curiosities, and articles of use to a naturalist.

— Arthur F. Gray, Danversport, Mass., is desirous of obtaining specimens of *Purpura lapillus*, *Littorina litorea*, *L. tenebrosa*, *L. rudis*, *L. palliata*, *Tritia trivittata*, *Ilyanassa obsoleta*, and *Buccinum undatum* from all localities where they exist. He would like fifty specimens or more of the commoner species, if convenient, from each locality, together with notes in regard to the situations where such specimens were gathered. In collecting specimens, select a fair representative of each species, both small and large specimens. His object is to study the variations of mollusks which are either very common or distributed over extended areas, and then produce a paper upon their variations. Due acknowledgment will be made for any aid rendered.

— Lieutenant Cameron has been created a Companion of the Order of the Bath, and has been promoted to the rank of commander in the British Navy. The narrative of his travels, which will form the most interesting and important work on African geography that has appeared for many years, is now approaching completion. It will be published by Messrs. Daldy and Isbester, London.

— Several sets of plants collected by Dr. Palmer in Arizona and Northeastern California, determined by Professor Gray and Mr. S. Watson, are for sale at ten dollars a hundred. Apply to Dr. C. C. Parry, Davenport, Iowa.

— Dr. William LeBaron, late State Entomologist of Illinois, author of four annual reports on the injurious insects of that State, died October 14, 1876, at Elgin, Illinois. He was the son of Dr. Lemuel and Martha LeBaron, and was born in North Andover, Mass., October 18, 1814. He studied medicine with Dr. Joseph Kittredge in North Andover, and practiced there. He married Sarah Jarvis Carr, of Ellsworth, Maine, and in 1844 removed to Geneva, Illinois, where he also practiced medicine.

— The New York Aquarium was opened October 10th, under excellent auspices, a large number of friends of science meeting in the fine building erected for the purpose, and listening to an inaugural address by Hon. R. B. Roosevelt. Our readers will take a personal interest in this important enterprise from the liberal and scientific spirit that thus far has characterized the management. The manager and projector, Mr. W. C. Coup, directs the attention of the public to a feature of the New York Aquarium which he announces is "specially designed to promote and encourage original scientific research, and aid in the study of natural history in all of its most important branches. This consists in the establishment of a free scientific library and reading-room, as an adjunct to the Aquarium, together with a naturalist's workshop, fitted out with all the needed modern appliances, including microscopes, experimental tanks, dissecting tables, etc. This department is under the immediate charge of Mr. W. S. Ward, at whose suggestion it was established, and we propose to admit to the privileges of this scientific quarter any and all of those who, either as students or teachers, may desire to avail themselves of the advantages of study and research here afforded."

Conducted in this spirit, and with the patronage of an intelligent public, we may hope for most excellent results. It affords the only means in the country for the study of the development of marine animals during the winter months, and affords a rare opportunity to naturalists in the city of New York, whom we personally envy.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Iowa City. — June 23d. Prof. C. E. Bessey presented A Preliminary Catalogue of the Lichens of Iowa. His list of twenty-six species, collected principally in Central Iowa, includes probably about one fifth of the entire lichens of the State. He presented also A Preliminary Catalogue of the Orthoptera of Iowa, including thirty-nine species found in Central and Southeastern Iowa.

Mounds and Mound-Builders was the subject of a carefully prepared paper by Dr. P. J. Farnsworth, of Clinton, tending to show that the mound-builders were identical in race with the historical Indians of North America. The evidence offered was mainly based on resemblances in anatomical structure and modes of burial between the mound-builders and still existing Indian tribes.

Prof. Samuel Calvin, of the state university, described seven New Species of paleozoic Fossils, found mainly in Howard and Floyd counties, Iowa. He also presented a Notice of a Probable new Species of Elephant, from the modified drift near West Union, Iowa. The structure of the teeth differs from that of either *Elephans Americanus* or *E. primigenius.*

Prof. F. M. Witter presented Notes on the Land and Fresh-Water Shells found near Muscatine, of which he has determined fifty-two species.

The Deposits of the Chemung Group in Iowa were described by Professor Calvin as occupying a narrow area along the south side of Lime Creek for a few miles above Rockford, Floyd County, Iowa. It was shown that forty-five of the fossils of the group do not occur in other rocks in Iowa, and this together with the position of the deposits renders it proper to refer the group to a period above the Hamilton or to the Chemung. The further fact that three fourths of all the fossils in the group have been found nowhere else in the world, justifies the application of some distinctive title to the epoch, and the name "Rockford Shales" was proposed.

Professor Calvin also presented A Preliminary Notice of the Occurrence of Marcellus Shales in Iowa. This paper had reference to the discovery of a dark, somewhat bituminous shale beneath the Hamilton